



## Center for Collaborative Research & Education

### K-12 Science Initiative Brief

#### Secretary's Summit Goal 3: Improving Teacher Knowledge

##### Tri-States Region LASER Initiative

**Initiated:** 1998

**Grade Levels:** K-8

**Location:** New Jersey, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Southwestern Connecticut

**Primary Partners:** DuPont, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Merck Institute for Science Education, New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative

**Number Affected:** 45 LASER Teams (representing 56 School Districts).

##### Project Purpose

**Goals:** To replicate the DE ESI model in Salem County, NJ and Southeastern Pennsylvania so that students in communities where DuPont operates achieve the level of competency in science required to become tomorrow's knowledge intensity employees and informed consumers of science-based products and services.

**Primary Activities:** School District Strategic Planning; Curriculum Selection; Materials Center Implementation; Technical Support for Formative Assessment.

##### Project Summary

The Tri-States Region is one of 8 regional LASER partnerships nationwide for the reform of elementary science education. LASER is the outreach arm of the National Science Resources Center (NSRC) and is funded by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation and by the Smithsonian Institution, the National Academies, and the 8 regional LASER partners. Through LASER, the NSRC organizes regional conferences and institutes to introduce school district teams to the NSRC's five elements of effective science reform and to assist teams in writing a strategic plan for K-8 science reform.

##### Project Accomplishments/ Results

**1998:** Co-Sponsored **LASER Building Awareness Conference.**

**1998:** Co-Sponsored **Tri-States LASER Regional Strategic Planning Institute.**

**1998:** Formed **Partners in Science** county-wide materials center in Salem, NJ.

**1999:** Formed **SEPARSI** to institute a 5-district materials center in PA

**1999:** Co-Sponsored **LASER Building Awareness Conference.**

**1999:** Co-Sponsored **LASER Curriculum Showcase Conference.**

**1999:** Co-Sponsored **Tri-States LASER Regional Strategic Planning Institute.**

**2000:** **SEPARSI** received **\$50K** grant from PA DOE to scale-up materials center.

**2001:** Reported **Salem County TIMSS Science Scores 50% > than National Mean.**

**2002:** Completed an **Assessment of Tri-States' Implementation Progress and Needs.**

**2002:** Sponsored **Tri-States LASER Assessment Academy** (200 participants).

##### Forward Plans